

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7, and 10 have been amended hereby. Claims 1 and 7 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1, 7, and 10 have been amended in part to address the issues raised in the Office Action in paragraph 4, and in particular to clarify the recitation “operating environment.”

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 7, and 10 are clear and definite in their recitation of the present invention, and meet all requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,630,161 (“Branco”), newly cited, in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0115495 (“Rawson”), this is the same Rawson previously cited as U.S. Patent No. 7,318,164, set forth in the Office Action in paragraphs 4-9; of the rejection of Claim 3 as being obvious over Branco in view of Rawson and U.S. Patent No. 5,886,537 (“Macias”), set forth in the Office Action in paragraphs 11-13; of the rejection of Claim 4 as being obvious over Branco in view of Rawson, and U.S. Patent No. 5,926,583 (“Iwase”), set forth in the Office Action in paragraphs 15-17; of the rejection of Claim 6 as being obvious over Branco in view of Rawson and U.S. Patent No. 5,175,837 (“Arnold”), set forth in the Office Action in paragraphs 19-22; of the rejection of Claim 7 was rejected as being obvious over Branco in view of Macias and Rawson, set forth in the Office Action in paragraphs 24-32; of the rejection of Claim 8 as being obvious over Branco in view of Macias, Rawson, and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0068626 (“Takeda”), set forth in the Office Action in

paragraph 34-36; of the rejection of Claim 9 as being obvious over Branco in view of Macias, Rawson, Takeda, and U.S. Patent No. 4,876,643 (“McNeil”), set forth in the Office Action in paragraphs 38-40; and of the rejection of Claims 10 and 11 as being obvious over Branco in view of Macias, Rawson, Takeda, and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0200249 (“Gorgone”), set forth in the Office Action in paragraphs 42-45.

The presently claimed invention, as recited in amended independent Claim 1 and similarly in amended independent Claim 7, relates to a signal processing device, including a general-purpose signal processor and a management processor.

The general-purpose signal processor is formed of a plurality of component-processors, each of the component-processors is capable of operating under a plurality of operating environments associated with a plurality of software tasks, and operating independently from other component-processors.

The management processor selects a number of component-processors to operate and configures the operating environments of each of the selected component-processors in response to a type of processing and an estimated load of the entire processing.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references, alone or in any possible combination, fail to teach or suggest a management processor that selects a number of component-processors to operate and configures the operating environments of each of the selected component-processors in response to a type of processing and an estimated load of the entire processing, as recited in amended independent Claim 1, and similarly in amended independent Claim 7.

The cited references are directed to configure connections of each of the component-processors based on a designated operation mode (i.e., parallel processing mode, serial processing mode, etc.). In contrast, in the presently claimed invention, a type of processing and

an entire load of processing are estimated based on the required performance for performing a particular processing, and the connections of each of the component processors are configured accordingly. See the three examples of operation of the home server described in the present application: game, video and sound distribution, and image and sound communication, for example. In particular paragraphs [0067] and [0068] of the published application:

[0067] In the signal processing device 10, the management processor 101 estimates a load of the entire processing and the kind of processing and determines the number of component-processors to be operated on the basis of the program of the internal memory 102, and constructs the operating environments for the video and sound distribution in those component-processors.

[0068] For example, in the case where a load of image processing is relatively large with respect to the image generation of a video to be distributed, the management processor 101 transfers an image generation program to the first component-processor 103A through the internal bus B10, transfers an image processing program to the second and third component-processor 103B and 103C through the internal bus B10, and transfers a sound output program to the fourth component-processor 103D through the internal bus B10, so as to make the respective programs executable.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 1 and 7, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over the cited references, alone or in any possible combination, if any.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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